Metres (BCM) and the net annual ground water availability has been estimated as 10.38 BCM. Annual ground water draft in the State is estimated as 12.99 BCM with stage of ground water development at 125%. Out of 237 blocks (assessment units) in the State, 190 have been categorized as Over-exploited/Critical including 13 blocks in Jaipur district.

The net annual ground water availability in Jaipur district has been assessed as 609.25 Million Cubic Metres (MCM), against which the annual ground water draft is 1136.85 MCM with stage of ground water development at 186%.

Problems of ground water contamination due to salinity, fluoride, nitrate, iron etc. have been reported from isolated pockets in different parts of the State. Concentration of lead above permissible limit (0.05 mg/1) has been reported from Khetri Copper belt in Jhunjhunu district, Pali industrial belt in Pali district and around Sambhar lake and Sanganer in Jaipur District.

(b) to (d) CGWB has prepared ground water year books for the State of Rajasthan including reports on ground water situation and quality problems in the State. These reports have been disseminated to the user agencies in the State. The steps taken by the State Government to provide safe drinking water include:—

- Taking up of Rajasthan Integrated Fluorosis Mitigation Programme (RIFMP) in 23297 fluoride affected habitations of the State in phased manner with collaborative efforts of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Public Health Engineering Department (PHED).
- Distribution of domestic de-fluoridation units and sanctioning of major water supply projects for safe and sustainable sources in fluoride affected areas.
- Formulation of project proposals by the State Government for major water supply which also covers a large number of fluoride affected habitations.

Solution of floods

†882. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is negotiating with Government of Nepal to explore a permanent solution of floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) Construction of big dams/reservoirs on rivers at suitable locations are considered as permanent solution to floods, especially if dedicated flood cushion is provided in the storage reservoirs. Big dams moderate the floods in downstream by way of releasing controlled discharge through spillway. Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on river Sharda

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Mahakali in Nepal), Saptakosi High Dam Project on river Kosi and West Rapti (Naumure) Multipurpose Project on river West Rapti are under discussion with the Government of Nepal. These high dam projects, on implementation, would provide benefits to people of India and Nepal, both, in the form of hydro-power, irrigation and flood moderation.

Government of India is in constant dialogue with the Government of Nepal for which a three tier mechanism consisting of Joint Ministerial level Commission on water Resources (JMCWR) co-chaired by Ministers of Water Resources of India and Nepal, Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) at the level of Secretaries of Water Resources of India and Department of Energy of Nepal and Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) exists.

During the 5th meeting of JCWR held recently from 20-22 November, 2009 at Pokhara (Nepal), the terms of reference for establishment of Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) for development, execution and operation of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project have been jointly finalized.

Large scale erosion

883. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has submitted a report to Government regarding large scale erosion on sea shore of Gujarat during last monsoon in June and also during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Inter-linking of rivers

884. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government is opposed to the project of the inter-linking of rivers;

(b) whether any budgetary provision will be made for the project this year; and

(c) the funds allocated by the Centre this year, for the flood protection measures in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Most of the States are supportive of the concept of the interlinking of rivers project; provided the project can some how ensure a "win-win" situation for all States. However, the